



## The Amateur in You, Part 2

*What have you been pondering?*



### Have a backup plan

Have you ever volunteered to help during a drill or an event, only to find that you have a dead battery or a broken antenna? On one hand, it's our goal to keep our preparation simple. On the other hand, it's often wise to have a **backup plan**, or at least some idea of what equipment you can take with you, to fortify your existing gear.

What we're talking about are extra pieces of equipment that you might bring with you, over and beyond what you might already be taking. I suppose you can bring two of everything, and your backup plan will be complete, but is that reasonable? If not, here are some extra things you might want to consider collecting before heading out:

- Spare batteries or power supply and cords
- Additional pre-programmed radio
- Extra coax or pigtail
- Connectors, adapters, extenders
- Spare or better antenna
- Can of gasoline
- Spare headlamp
- Another hoodie for somebody else
- Spare gloves for another person
- Extra chair
- Hand microphone
- Pen and paper
- Alternate radio frequencies (simplex and repeater)
- Radio programming cable and laptop
- Umbrella (for rain or shine)
- Duct tape
- Extension cord
- Rope, string
- Different location or time
- People (operator, logger, helper)
- Footwear (shoes, boots)



As you can see, your backup plan doesn't have to be confined to **your** needs. Another person, maybe the one you're serving with, can use an extra hand at times too.

### Finally

If the situation renders your activity **unwise** (competing activity), **insensitive** (death in the family), or **unsafe** (bad storm brewing), the best backup plan might be no plan at all. There's no shame in canceling an event, especially if moving forward with the activity might jeopardize people's well-being.

